

In the Claims:

Please replace the claim listing with the following listing of claims:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A connection arrangement for detachably connecting a first flexible tank and a second flexible tank of an aircraft, comprising:

a latching device;

a first tubular connecting element defining a first axis, having a first mating wall parallel to the first axis and being attached to the first flexible tank;

a second tubular connecting element defining a second axis, having a second mating wall parallel to the second axis, and being attached to the second flexible tank, one of the first and the second tubular connecting elements being telescopically slidable within the other of the first and second tubular connecting elements such that sliding contact occurs between the first and second mating walls and being detachably connected to the other of the first and second tubular connecting elements by the latching device; and

wherein, in a connected state of the connecting elements, the first and the second tanks are in fluid communication with each other via the first and the second tubular connecting elements and the latching device is disposed inside one of the first and second flexible tanks so as to be actuatable from outside the respective flexible tank through said respective flexible tank without opening said respective flexible tank.

Claim 2 (original): The connection arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein in the connected state, the first tubular connecting element projects into an inside of the second flexible tank.

Claim 3 (original): The connection arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the latching device includes a first spring element.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The connection arrangement as recited in claim 3, wherein the latching device includes a second spring element, the first and second spring elements attached to the first tubular connecting element and positioned across from each other at an angle of 180°.

Claim 5 (original): The connection arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the first flexible tank includes a rubber fitting and the first tubular connecting element includes an attachment flange for attaching to the rubber fitting.

Claim 6 (original): The connection arrangement as recited in claim 1, the first flexible tank is directly attached to the first tubular connecting element.

Claim 7 (original): The connection arrangement as recited in claim 1, further comprising a rib element separating the first flexible tank and the second flexible tank.

Claim 8 (original): The connection arrangement as recited in claim 1, the second flexible tank is directly attached to the second tubular connecting element.

Claim 9 (original): The connection arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the second tubular connecting element projects into an inside of the second tank.

Claim 10 (original): The connection arrangement as recited in claim 1, further comprising a sealing element disposed between the first and the second tubular connecting elements.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The connection arrangement as recited in claim 2, wherein the latching device is arranged at the first tubular connecting element.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The connection arrangement as recited in claim 10, wherein the sealing element is an O-ring.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The connection arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein each of the first and second tubular connecting elements is integrally formed as a single component.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A connection arrangement for detachably connecting a first flexible tank and a second flexible tank of an aircraft, comprising:

a latching device;

a first tubular connecting element attached to the first flexible tank; and

a second tubular connecting element attached to the second flexible tank, the first and the second connecting elements being detachably connected to each other using the latching device,

wherein, in a connected state of the connecting elements, the first and the second tanks are in fluid communication with each other via the first and the second connecting elements, the first tubular connecting element projects into an inside of the second flexible tank, and the latching device is disposed inside one of the first and second flexible tanks so as to be actuatable from outside the respective flexible tank through said respective flexible tank without opening said respective flexible tank.